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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INTELLFAX 23

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Middle East/USSR/China

DATE DISTR. 14 August 1951

SUBJECT Pilgrimages to Mecca

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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1. Source states that "the Cominform in Prague and its branch in Peking" (sic) are sending eight thousand communist Moslems - all between seventeen and twenty-five years of age - from Uzbekistan, Soviet Azerbaijan, and China to Mecca, Sa'udi Arabia, for the pilgrimage this year. There will be three thousand in the Chinese contingent and five thousand in the group from Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan.
2. According to source, the purpose of the pilgrimage by these Soviet and Chinese Moslems is to inform Moslems from other parts of the world that conditions for them in the Soviet Union and China are "not unfavorable" and to observe conditions in the Arab countries.
3. Informant states that a General MAO Chi-Wan (sic), a Chinese Nationalist Moslem, is in Sa'udi Arabia and will soon go to Beirut. According to informant, General MAO's mission in the Middle East area is to organize a group of Chinese Moslem students at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, for the 1951 pilgrimage to Mecca.
4. According to informant, General MAO's group will present counterpropaganda to a large group of Moslems from the Caucasus and Communist China which is also making the pilgrimage this year. Informant states that this latter group will pass through Lebanon.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. "General MAO Chi-Wan" is in all probability General MA Chi-Yuan, a known anti-communist Chinese Moslem who this year was reported to be travelling outside of China.

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